

•With Care and Respect

•Keeping 'Em Flying in Hawaii

•A Time to Honor...

The Official U.S. Army Magazine

May 2003
www.soldiersmagazine.com

Soldiers

**Apaches
Over
Arizona
Ammo
Makers**



Images of War

A New Hot Topics Issue
At Page 9

Soldiers

May 2003 Volume 58, No. 5



The Official U.S. Army Magazine

Secretary of the Army: Thomas E. White
Chief of Staff: GEN Eric K. Shinseki
Chief of Public Affairs: MG Larry D. Gottardi
Chief, Command Information: COL James M. Allen

Soldiers Staff

Editor in Chief: LTC John E. Suttle
Managing Editor: Gil High
Production Editor: Steve Harding
Art Director: Helen Hall VanHoose
Associate Art Director: Paul Henry Crank
Senior Editor: Heike Hasenauer
Associate Editor: SFC Lisa Gregory
Photo Editor: SSG Alberto Betancourt
Special Products Editor: Beth Reece
Graphic Designer: LeRoy Jewell
Executive Secretary: Joseph T. Marsden

Printing: Gateway Press, Inc., Louisville, Ky.

Soldiers (ISSN 0093-8440) is published monthly under supervision of the Army Chief of Public Affairs to provide the Total Army with information on people, policies, operations, technical developments, trends and ideas of and about the Department of the Army. The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. ■ Manuscripts of interest to Army personnel are invited. Direct communication is authorized to **Editor, Soldiers, 9325 Gunston Road, Suite S108, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5581**. Phone: DSN 656-4486 or commercial (703) 806-4486. Or send e-mail to soldiers@belvoir.army.mil. ■ Unless otherwise indicated (and except for "by permission" and copyright items), material may be reprinted provided credit is given to **Soldiers** and the author. ■ All photographs by U.S. Army except as otherwise credited.

■ Military distribution: From the U.S. Army Distribution Operations Facility, 1655 Woodson Road, St. Louis, MO 63114-6181, in accordance with Initial Distribution Number (IDN) 050007 subscription requirements submitted by commanders. ■ The Secretary of the Army has determined that the publication of this periodical is necessary in the transaction of the public business as required by law of the department. ■ Use of funds for printing this publication was approved by the Secretary of the Army on Sept. 2, 1986, in accordance with the provisions of Army Regulation 25-30. Library of Congress call number: U1.A827. ■ Periodicals postage paid at Fort Belvoir, VA, and additional mailing offices. ■ Individual domestic subscriptions are available at \$38 per year through the Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954. For credit card orders call (202) 512-1800 or FAX (202) 512-2250. ■ To change addresses for individual subscriptions, send your mailing label with changes to: Superintendent of Documents, Mail Stop SSOM, Washington, DC 20402. ■ POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Fort Belvoir address above.



▲12



▲18



▲26



FEATURES

12 With Care and Respect
Soldiers assigned to the Army's European mortuary don't have an option when it comes to thinking about death.

18 Apaches Over Arizona
An organization called WAATS is changing the way the Army produces AH-64 aviators and maintainers.

24 A Time to Honor...
This month all Americans honor those who've fought and died for the nation.

www.soldiersmagazine.com



Check out the new Hot Topics at page 9



COVER FEATURE
IMAGES OF WAR

26 Youth Challenge

An innovative National Guard program is helping turn troubled teens around.

31 Battling the Blizzard

Nearly 800 Guard soldiers helped citizens cope with the aftermath of the biggest storm the nation has seen in a decade.

38 The Ammo Makers

Virginia's Radford Army Ammunition Plant produces a range of projectiles and propellants for the nation.

44 Keeping 'Em Flying in Hawaii

In Hawaii, experience and professionalism ensure quality aircraft maintenance.

DEPARTMENTS

- 2 Feedback
- 32 Focus On People
- 34 Postmarks
- 36 Sharp Shooters
- 42 Legal Forum
- 48 Around the Services
- 49 Corps of Engineers — Vietnam Tunnel



▲ 4

Front cover:

PFC Joseph P. Dwyer, a medic with 3rd Sqdn., 7th Cav., carries an injured Iraqi child to safety. — *Army Times* photo by Warren Zinn

From the Editor

THE cover of this month's **Soldiers** features PFC Joseph P. Dwyer of the 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry, carrying an injured Iraqi boy to safety. For more combat photos, don't miss our special "Images of War" section — it captures the spirit of Operation Iraqi Freedom while showcasing the soldiers of America's Army.

With millions of rounds of ordnance expended in the war on terrorism, Army ammunition plants are running in high gear. For an inside look at how some of this ordnance is manufactured, join SSG Alberto Betancourt for a tour of Virginia's Radford Army Ammunition Plant in "Ammo Makers."

The war on terrorism joins the list of wars in which millions of Americans have given their lives for liberty and democracy. In "A Time to Honor" we give you a history of the day we set aside to honor these Americans, Memorial Day, along with a timeline of our nation's greatest conflicts and the numbers of those who were killed and wounded in each.

Finally, in "With Care and Respect," Heike Hasenauer shows us how our Army takes care of our comrades in arms who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

John C. Suttle

To the Troops...

*SINCE the outbreak of war with the regime of Saddam Hussein, **Soldiers** has received many letters and e-mails from people wishing to voice their support for, and thanks to, the troops. Over the next few issues we'll be sharing some of these messages of support with you, our readers.*

THERE are no words to truly show the depth of our appreciation to the men and women in the armed services of the United States, and of her allies.

Every step you take will be intertwined with the honor of every soldier who has gone before you.

We know you are in a very difficult place in your lives. Please know you are not there alone. Even those of you who think you have no family, there are millions of Americans who hold you close in their thoughts and hearts.

You are loved by all of us, for placing yourselves in harm's way to protect your families and the families of millions of Americans whom you've never met.

You are the guardians of our future. Without your courage and bravery, our future generations may not know the freedom you are now protecting.

Determination, endurance and fortitude will bring you home to the warm embrace of all who love you. We will celebrate your gallantry, and honor your valor.

*M. Gonzales Kypfer
via e-mail*

WE just wanted to send a note to our troops letting them know that there are a lot of people at home that support them! They are risking their lives for a just cause and I wish there was more I could do to show my support, but all I can do is wish them well and hope they kick ass over there and come home soon! Our prayers will be with them, and we will continue to support them at home. Take care and be as safe as you can.

*Craig and Jenni Wooton
Findlay, Ohio*

THIS is just a short note to say thanks for all your efforts and sacrifices. So many of our citizens do not realize that freedom is not free. Freedom is paid for by young men and women like yourselves from generation to generation.

Again, please accept my thanks and gratitude for your bravery and dedication to our country and everything it stands for. My flag will fly till you come home. May God bless you all!

*Richard Vernon
via e-mail*

Cool Map

I WOULD like to thank the staff at **Soldiers** for the very useful world map/Iraq situation map in the March edition.

Fort Riley is currently handling activated National Guard and Army Reserve units, and they all wanted the map — so much, in fact, that someone stole mine!

*Carol Hale
via e-mail*

THANKS for the kind words ... and we've put a replacement copy in the mail to you!

ADA on the Move

IN your March article "School for the Air Defense" you said that "Company D trains the soldiers who drive the vehicles used by ADA units." That is incorrect.

Co. D of the 1st Battalion, 56th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, at Fort Bliss, Texas, is the only company outside of Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., that proudly trains more than 750 AIT soldiers annually in primary MOS 88M (Motor Transport Operators) assigned to combat arms, combat service and combat service support for the active Army, National Guard and Army Reserve.

We'd like for everyone to know that the Transportation Corps. is well represented at Fort Bliss, Texas.

*1SG George Quiñones Jr.
Fort Bliss, Texas*

SDAP, Because...

BEING a career counselor, and having been a recruiter for many years, let me see if I can answer the question posed in the anonymous March letter to

the editor titled "Why SDAP?"

For starters, recruiters have no immediate access to a commissary, post exchange or base laundry; get no base housing; and work very long hours (not that we all don't work long hours).

Without computation of costs, my guess is that a family of four would use the \$220.00 extra a month SDAP provides solely on food.

*SFC Robert Walters
Via e-mail*

IN your the March Feedback section a sergeant who was too timid to give his name took issue with career counselors getting SDAP.

I am a ranger tab and combat-patch wearing former member of the 82nd Airborne Division. I have been a recruiter and am now a career counselor, and I have never been more challenged by any

Army job than now. Recruiting SDAP is \$375 a month — I took a pay cut to do this job and have three times as much to do.

My advice to the letter writer is to try performing either of these two special duties before passing judgment on this very demanding and fulfilling mission the Army has given us.

And as for the writer's final question ("Is the job really that demanding?") the answer is: Yes, it is. Do you understand now?

*SFC Cody Oathout
Fort Sam Houston, Texas*

No Clearance Required

I JUST wanted to make a quick comment on a "Feed-back" letter in the February edition in which SSG Darlene J. Hill said that the personnel services NCOs in each unit are

required to have a security clearance.

Personnel service NCOs can be either MOS 75B or 75H, and neither requires a security clearance, as outlined in Chapter 10 of Department of the Army Pamphlet 611-21.

*SFC Renee Welde
via e-mail*

Service Flags, Again

Your July 2002 article about service flags was excellent. In the March 2003 issue a Feedback comment stated that the service flags cannot be ordered from the manufacturer. I beg to differ.

Approximately two months ago I went to www.service-flags.com and purchased a

flag set for myself and my mother (my son and I are both Army Reservists) and received the flags in a matter of a few days.

*Debra Harris
via e-mail*

Great Job

THE staff members at Soldier's magazine continue to do a great job. I remember looking forward to each issue when I was stationed in Germany in the late 1970s.

I continue to look forward to the issues circulating around our office, even though I've been retired now for seven years.

*Robert S. Ryczak
via e-mail*

Soldiers is for soldiers and DA civilians. We invite readers' views. Stay under 150 words — a post card will do — and include your name, rank and address. We'll withhold your name if you desire and may condense your views because of space. We can't publish or answer every one, but we'll use representative views. Write to: **Feedback, Soldiers, 9325 Gunston Road, Ste. S108, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5581**, or e-mail: soldiers@belvoir.army.mil.



Order Processing Code:

* 5905

☐ YES, please send _____ subscriptions to: **Soldiers**

The total cost of my order is \$ _____.

Name or title _____ (Please type or print)

Company name _____ Room, floor, suite _____

Street address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code+4 _____

Daytime phone including area code _____

Purchase order number (optional) _____



Credit card orders are welcome!

Fax your orders (202) 512-2250

Phone your orders (202) 512-1800

(SOL) at \$38 each (\$53.20 foreign) per year.

Price includes regular shipping & handling and is subject to change.

Check method of payment:

☐ Check payable to: Superintendent of Documents

☐ GPO Deposit Account ☐

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover

☐

(expiration date)

☐

Authorizing signature

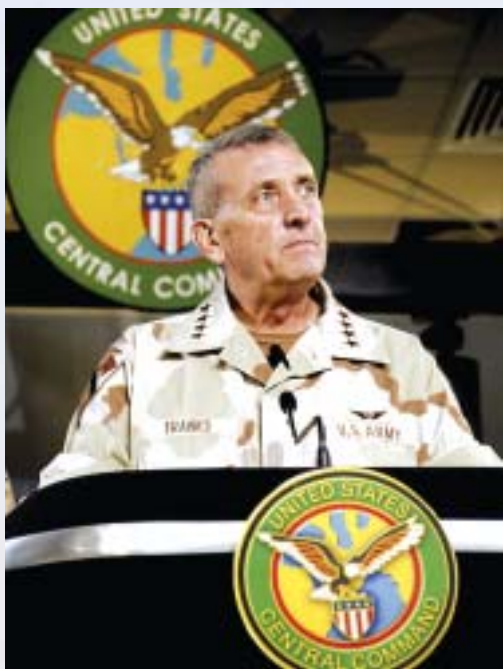
Date

Mail to: Superintendent of Documents, PO Box 371954, Pittsburgh PA 15250-7954

Important: Please include this completed order form with your remittance.

Thank you for your order!





GEN Tommy Franks, commander of the coalition forces engaged in Operation Iraqi Freedom, listens to a question at a Qatar press conference on the first day of the war.

DICTATOR Saddam Hussein's regime is "evil at its heart," President George W. Bush told U.S. Central Command troops at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., shortly after coalition forces invaded Iraq on Mar. 21.

Bush described the campaign against the Iraqi regime as a continuation of America's war on terrorism. He said that instead of waiting for Hussein or his terrorist proxies to deploy weapons of mass destruction against America and its allies, "We are meeting the danger today with our Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and Marines."

"The war," Bush said, "is far from over, but our military is focused and unwavering. We have an effective plan of battle and the flexibility to meet every challenge. Day by day, the Iraqi people are closer to freedom."

— Gary J. Gilmore, Armed Forces Press Service

IMAGES OF WAR



CPT Enrique T. Vasquez

Missile crew members prepare to conduct daily launcher maintenance inspections at a Patriot site.

Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, stand guard at a forward arming and refueling point inside Iraq.

SPC Robert Woodward



IMAGES OF WAR

PFC Joshua Hudson



PFC James Matise



PFC James Matise

CPT Enrique T. Vasquez





(Above, left) LTG William S. Wallace
(left), V Corps commander, talks
with 101st Airborne Division sol-
diers as the division's commander,
MG David H. Petraeus, looks on.

(Far left, center) Soldiers of the
101st Abn. Div. remove their protec-
tive masks after morning training.

(Far left, bottom) SGT Jeremy
Helmes of the 1st Bn., 179th Inf.
Regt., pulls site security for a Pa-
triot missile battery.

(Left) Artillerymen of the 1st Bn.,
377th Field Artillery Regt., train with
their gun at Camp New Jersey, Ku-
wait, days before the outbreak of
war.

(Right) A 101st Abn. Div. CH-47
Chinook lifts communications
equipment belonging to the
division's assault command post.

PFC James Matisse



Reuters/Peter Andrews



SPC Andrew Kosterman



(Above) Soldiers of Company A, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, search a presidential palace in Baghdad on Tuesday, April 8.

(Above, left) Soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division search an Iraqi civilian in the town of Kifl, south of Baghdad.

(Left) Paratroopers of the 82nd Abn. Div.'s Co. B, 2nd Bn., 325th Inf., cross a bridge over the Euphrates River at As Samawa during a morning assault on April 4.

(Below, left) An M1 Abrams tank of 4th Bn., 64th Armored Regt., fires into a building behind a Baghdad mosque after taking rocket fire on April 9.

(Right) An 800th Military Police Brigade MP examines a car and its passengers at a checkpoint in southern Iraq on April 1.

(Above, right) An M1 from 2nd Bn., 70th Armd. Regt., takes up a position in the center of Kerbala's downtown area on April 6.



AP photo/John Moore



Soldiers



IMAGES OF WAR



AP photo/John Moore



Reuters/Peter Andrews

SGT Kevin Doheny (main photo)





IMAGES OF WAR



Reuters/Goran Tomassvic

(Left) A U.S. soldier watches as a statue of Saddam Hussein is pulled down in Baghdad on April 9.

(Left, center) Coalition troops advancing through An Nasiriyah, Iraq, discovered a chest full of atropine injectors intended to counteract the effects of nerve agents.

(Left, bottom) SPC Joshua Earl of the 220th MP Co. provides security in Southern Iraq's Rumalyah oil field.

(Below) And 82nd Abn. Div. soldier distributes MREs to civilians in Central Iraq on April 5.

(Right) A car burns on a bridge over the Euphrates River near Al Hindiyah, Iraq, captured by elements of the 3rd Inf. Div.

Capt. N.V. Taylor, USMC



SGT Kyran V. Adams



SFC David K. Dismukes





Soldiers





AMERICA

AND THE WAR ON TERRORISM

 Operation Iraqi Freedom “is all a part of the war on terrorism,” said U.S. Deputy Defense Secretary Paul D. Wolfowitz. The United States wouldn’t be risking service members’ lives in Iraq today solely because Saddam Hussein is a dictator — he is a tyrant who threatens everyone with his connections to terrorism, he said.

 Vice President Richard Cheney said the collapse of Saddam Hussein’s regime did not eliminate the possibility of continued hard fighting by coalition forces. Removing the terror regime in Iraq, he stressed, sends a clear message to all terrorist groups. “The United States and our coalition partners are showing that we have the capacity and the will to wage war on terror and to win decisively,” Cheney said. He added that coalition forces will continue to secure cities, protect supply lines and deliver humanitarian aid throughout Iraq.

 In Baghdad, people celebrated the arrival of coalition forces as pockets of regime holdouts continued to be mopped up. British troops secured Basra and made the port of Umm Qasr ready to receive ships carrying humanitarian-aid shipments.

 The defense portion of the fiscal 2003 emergency supplemental budget request is set at \$62.6 billion. The three largest portions of the DOD portion will go to military operations support, \$37.8 billion; personnel and personnel support, \$15.6 billion; and procurement, research and development, \$6.5 billion. Officials estimate the cost of sending troops and equipment to the Iraqi region and returning them home to be at \$30.3 billion. The major conflict phase is estimated to cost \$13.1 billion. The transitional and stability phase, which includes humanitarian supplies, will cost roughly \$12 billion.





The flag-draped casket of a soldier who died in Afghanistan arrives at the U.S. Army Memorial Affairs Activity-Europe mortuary in Landstuhl, Germany.

With

The USAMAA-E's mortuary is the "funeral home" for U.S. military personnel, family members, Defense Department civilians and other Americans assigned to or deployed within the U.S. European and Central commands.

SOLDIERS assigned to the 21st Theater Support Command's U.S. Army Memorial Affairs Activity, Europe, in Landstuhl, Germany, don't have an option when it comes to thinking about death. In early March, as war between the United States and Iraq appeared imminent, they thought about it more than usual.

In the "uniform room" of USAMAA-E's mortuary, one soldier checked a rack of joint-services uniforms to determine the number and sizes available. Various types of head gear sat in formation on the top shelf of the closet, and assorted spit-shined shoes lined the floorboard.

The soldier sorted through drawers that contained underwear, ties, socks, brass and unit and rank insignia, making a note to order more of several combat-arms units' patches.

USAMAA-E's mortuary — the sole "funeral home" for U.S. military

personnel, family members, Defense Department civilians and other Americans assigned to or deployed within U.S. European Command and U.S. Central Command — was preparing, too, for the possibility of war with Iraq and the resulting potential casualties.

Family members will depend on the mortuary-affairs specialists at the Landstuhl facility to professionally handle the remains of loved ones who are killed in that combat, said David Roath, USAMAA-E director.

In recent years, the mortuary has received the remains of 12 Americans killed in the 1998 U.S. Embassy bombing in Kenya, sailors who died in 2000 in the terrorist attack on the USS *Cole* in Yemen, victims of the March 2001 RC-12 plane crash in Giebelstadt, Germany, and some of the 155 victims of the November 2001 avalanche in Kaprun, Austria, Roath said.

The latter "was one of the most difficult cases for me," said SSG

Konrad Murak, mortuary casualty NCO, "because one whole family from Landstuhl's neighboring community, Ramstein, was killed in the accident, and they had two boys close to my sons' ages."

The USAMAA-E mortuary operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. "That's because Europe's military mortuary plays such a significant role overseas," Roath said.

Remains bound for the United States must come to the Landstuhl facility to be processed. It's also where the necessary American death certificate is issued, said armed forces regional medical examiner Dr. (LTC) Kathleen Ingwersen.

In 2002, the mortuary received 255 sets of remains, Ingwersen added, among them an Afghan freedom fighter who had to be returned to Afghanistan to be buried, in keeping with Muslim tradition, within 24 hours of death.

Care and Respect

Story and Photos by Heike Hasenauer

A 1996 policy change allowing USAMAA-E to ship remains directly to next of kin has dramatically reduced the amount of time families must wait to conduct services and plan burials, Roath said.

Among the services the mortuary provides is a viewing area for family members and friends. Additionally, mortuary-affairs specialists can furnish information about paperwork requirements involving a death overseas and guidance on burial and cremation, how to conduct a memorial service, even what types of caskets are available.

The latter, ranging in cost from about \$2,500 to \$3,000, are available at the mortuary free of charge for active-duty personnel, Roath said. Active-duty personnel may purchase caskets for family members at government cost.

When suicide or foul play may be a factor in a death, USAMAA-E enlists Ingwersen's expertise to determine what actually happened.

When the cause of death is questionable, an autopsy must first be performed. "We gather forensic evidence whenever someone dies

after being hospitalized for less than 24 hours, or when there's no known natural cause — when death is sudden, suspicious, unexplained, or 'accidental,'" Ingwersen said.

Her area of responsibility covers 121 countries, she added. It's a daunting task, but one made a bit easier with help from board-certified pathologists in-theater who are qualified to perform autopsies under her supervision.

When there are six or more sets of remains to be examined for medical or legal reasons at any one time, and Ingwersen can't perform all of the procedures herself, the remains are sent to the Defense Department's mortuary in Dover, Del.

Ingwersen travels to other countries, too, to perform forensic tests when the remains cannot be sent to

*Europe's mortuary
received 43
combat casualties
in 2002 relating to
Operation Enduring
Freedom.*



Mortuary-affairs specialists move the casket into the USAMAA-E facility, where the body will be prepared for shipment home.

Landstuhl, she said. That's typically the case when someone dies in a country that doesn't allow the removal of remains that have not been embalmed, such as Italy and Spain.

Annually, some 100 deaths within the two commands require investigation, Ingwersen said. About 50 percent of those turn out to be the result of accidents, and five to 10 percent are hospital-related deaths that require a medical examiner's autopsy to verify hospital findings.

Many of the natural deaths that occur are those of older retirees who die at their homes, Ingwersen said. And, within the theater of responsibility, Europe's mortuary received 43 combat casualties in 2002 relating to Operation Enduring Freedom. Those included victims of explosive-ordnance disposal accidents, Ingwersen said.

Death Investigations

On a recent day, the body of a 19-year-old active-duty soldier who died from a gunshot wound in Afghanistan arrived by hearse. And the body of an infant girl lay inside one of two examination rooms.

Because there were no witnesses to either of the deaths, Ingwersen was called in to perform autopsies.

Under the glow of ultraviolet lights, she searched the young soldier's body, first for any fibers. She then collected specimens from under his fingernails and swabbed other areas of the body for DNA samples.

Outside the heavy doors, soldiers adjusted a photo enlarger as they zoomed in on dog tags, keys and currency the soldier had in his pocket at the time he died. Then they photographed the blood-soaked uniform bearing the soldier's unit patch and insignia.

The scenes, while indisputably grim, are reminders of the fragility of



A USAMAA-E staffer photographs the personal effects of a young service member who committed suicide.

life and the pain of loss, Ingwersen said. "It doesn't matter how many times I do this; it affects me."

The only satisfaction she gets from any of these criminal-medical exams is in determining the actual cause of death and providing to the families facts about what happened, she said.

"The most important thing we can give families who suffer the death of a loved one is facts, offering them some closure.

"A few years ago we got a case that everyone said was a suicide. It didn't look like a suicide to me. Soon after, we got a confession of an execution-

With Care and Respect



Closets of uniforms, shoes, flags and other items are kept stocked in anticipation of casualties stemming from action in USAMAA-E's area of responsibility.

type murder,” said Ingwersen, who has on numerous occasions testified in court on a victim’s behalf.

Among the many services USAMAA-E provides is positive identification and full photographic documentation of remains, personal effects and clothing removed from the body before an autopsy, as well as photographs of the autopsy itself for investigative purposes.

“The criminal-medical investiga-

tion is a team effort,” she said.

Specimens go to a criminal investigation laboratory in Georgia and to the Armed Forces Toxicology Laboratory at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in the United States. Landstuhl Regional Medical Center’s laboratories also aid in the investigative process.

“The Sherlock Holmes-type work is intellectually stimulating,” said Ingwersen. “Knowing we’re providing answers for families is tremendously fulfilling.”

Disaster Mortuary Affairs Recovery Team

Some two dozen soldiers from the USAMAA-E are also part of the Disaster Mortuary Affairs Recovery Team, or DMART, the only team within the Defense Department that includes mortuary and forensic specialists, said Roath. They augment researchers from the U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory – Hawaii, to recover remains in the European Theater.

But unlike CILHI researchers, who chiefly search for the remains of service members killed or missing in action in past wars, the DMART deals with current deaths and bodies, more than remains, Roath said.

“Search and recovery is one of our primary missions,” Ingwersen said. “As the initial responders to accidents

within our jurisdiction, we can protect the integrity of the scene.”

“We go to where the fight is, where the special forces are operating,” said Roath. “And not once has one of our soldiers said, ‘No. I’m not going there.’”

DMART members were in Afghanistan following the Tarnak Farm bombing accident, in which a “friendly” bomb fell on Canadian forces, and in Shamshi, Pakistan, following the January 2002 crash of a Marine Corps KC-130 cargo plane, Roath said.

“We had to ‘grid’ down a 1,100-foot mountain, documenting the number of weapons aboard the aircraft and having them checked out, to eliminate the possibility that someone may have gone crazy aboard the plane and started shooting everyone,” Roath said.

Soldiers of the team also compose the “Fallen Service-Member Detail” — established after U.S. involvement in Bosnia — to pay tribute to forward-deployed soldiers who are killed, and provide training to temporarily assigned mortuary-affairs soldiers, Roath said.

Whether the job is search and recovery, criminal investigation or providing the final services to members of the military who gave their lives for their country, USAMAA-E’s mortuary affairs specialists stand ready to do their jobs with professionalism and compassion, Roath said. □

USAMAA-E’s mortuary affairs specialists stand ready to do their jobs with professionalism and compassion.



USAMAA-E soldiers prepare to load a casket aboard the hearse that will carry it to Rhein-Main Air Base, where it will be loaded aboard an aircraft bound for the United States.



Apaches Over Arizona

Story by Steve Harding

APACHES are gathering in Arizona, and this time their warpaint is olive drab.

The Apaches — AH-64A attack helicopters of the Western Army National Guard Aviation Training Site, or WAATS — are part of an innovative program that will ultimately train all AH-64A aviators for both the active Army and National Guard.

Located at Silverbell Army Heliport in Marana, about 30 miles northwest of Tucson, WAATS is uniquely qualified to provide the Apache training, said its commander, COL Pamela J. Rodriguez.

“This facility has been providing specialized helicopter training since October 1986,” she said. “Pilots, crewmembers and maintainers of such aircraft as the AH-1 Cobra attack helicopter and OH-58

Kiowa scout aircraft have benefited from WAATS’ unique blend of facilities and capabilities, and we’re set up specifically to provide quality training in both flight and support operations.”



AH-64A Apache attack helicopters like this one are becoming a familiar sight in Arizona skies as WAATS begins to take over all A-model training.

Organized for Success

WAATS is organized as a brigade, with a headquarters and three subordinate battalions, said CSM Kevin K. Herzinger.

The three companies of the TASS (The Army School System) Battalion handle AH-64 and OH-58 flight and maintenance training for both officers and enlisted soldiers; the Avn. Maintenance Bn. maintains and repairs WAATS' inventory of AH-64s, OH-58s and UH-60 Black Hawks; and the Support Bn. is responsible for both the everyday operations of WAATS' facilities and, through its Co. B, the operation of the facility's flight simulators, Herzinger said. The Sprt. Bn. also includes WAATS' medical, air-traffic control, crash and fire-rescue, and range-operations platoons.

Also resident at Silverbell is the 1st Bn., 285th Aviation Regiment, the first National Guard unit to be equipped with AH-64D Apaches, Herzinger said.

Among WAATS' most important attributes is the facility's proximity to some of the nation's best aviation



Located some 30 miles northwest of Tucson, Silverbell Army Airfield is home to AH-64A and AH-64D Apaches, UH-60 Black Hawks and OH-58 Kiowas.

"We've got a 160-by-120-nautical-mile tactical training area that allows aircrews to do anything from nap-of-the-earth flight all the way to test flights at altitude."

training areas, said LTC Anthony LaMorgese, commander of the maintenance battalion.

"We've got a 160-by-120-nautical-mile tactical training area that allows aircrews to do anything from nap-of-the-earth flight all the way to test flights at altitude," LaMorgese said. "And WAATS is within easy flying distance of even larger joint-service training and gunnery ranges in Arizona and California."

Arizona's weather is another plus, LaMorgese said, because the clear skies and sun allow an average of 360 training days a year.

"Another thing our students get is training in an environment very much like what they'll probably end up fighting in," said SFC Sam Vosburg, WAATS' instructor for aviation operations. "Here they learn to deal with the desert and the dust, and they find out how their systems really work in the types of places they'll probably operate in."

Helping students to learn how their aircraft will perform under different conditions is also where WAATS' AH-1 flight-weapons simulator and more advanced AH-64A combat-mission simulator come in. Each full-motion system allows students to "fly" a wide variety of missions under various conditions, without the costs or dangers of actual flight.

Among WAATS' most valuable attributes is its proximity to extensive aviation training areas and gunnery ranges.



The Boeing Co.



“Foreign military members use the AH-1 FWS quite a lot, and the AH-64A CMS supports both the training here at WAATS and National Guard and active-duty units in the region,” said LTC Frank Millerd, commander of WAATS’ Sprt. Bn.

Overall, Millerd said, the CMS racks up between 4,000 and 5,000 training hours each year. Those numbers will only increase, given the continuing expansion of Apache training at WAATS, he said. The facility is scheduled to receive a second Apache CMS in June, and will field an Aviation Combined Arms Tactical Trainer system in December 2004.

But the real secret to the quality of WAATS training, said Apache instructor pilot CPT Kevin Gaver, is the cumulative experience level of the training staff.

“I think our biggest advantage here at WAATS, in terms of what we offer our students, is a wealth of human experience,” Gaver said. “For ex-

(Above) WAATS’ full-motion AH-64A combat mission simulator, similar to this one, supports both “in-house” initial AH-64A training and refresher courses for National Guard and active-duty units in the region.

(Right) The CMS allows AH-64A aviators to hone their skills by “flying” a variety of challenging missions without the costs or dangers of actual flight.



U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command (both)



ample, our instructor pilots have an average of 3,250 flight hours, and many have extensive combat experience. The soldiers who instruct in the maintenance and aviation-operations courses are just as knowledgeable in their fields, and when you bring that much experience to the classroom or the cockpit it's a tremendous benefit for the students."

Apache Mecca

While WAATS will continue to offer training in the OH-58A and OH-58C — everything from aircraft qualification and instructor-pilot courses to the special skills required for counterdrug operations — the Apache program is undoubtedly drawing the most attention, Rodriguez said.

"We're certainly in the spotlight right now, and that's understandable,"

she said. "We're in the process of taking over a range of training that up to now has been the sole responsibility of the U.S. Army Aviation Center and School at Fort Rucker."

But Rodriguez stressed that WAATS is not out to make the Alabama-based Aviation Center obsolete.

"We're not trying to replace Fort Rucker. We're here to help train aviation soldiers so the Army can meet its readiness goals," she said.

Helping to meet those goals will be a graduated process, with WAATS first taking over the AH-64A aircraft qualification course, or AQC, which introduces already-qualified pilots of other helicopter types to the Apache.

"The first four AQC students arrived at WAATS in January," LaMorgese said. "We plan to offer two more classes this year, in April and July, with six students in each, and our

"We expect to graduate 40 AH-64 pilots during our second full year of Apache training, and plan to double that number the following year."

goal is to ultimately have eight students in each class. We expect to graduate 40 AH-64 pilots during our second full year of Apache training and plan to double that number the following year."

Eventually, he said, WAATS will also be training AH-64A instructor pilots and maintenance test pilots, as well as offering a resident course for



Steve Harding (both)

(Above) Students in WAATS' various Apache courses also receive extensive classroom instruction.

(Left) Keeping the aircraft flying is up to the soldiers of WAATS' Maintenance Bn. Here, three members of the unit boresight an Apache's 30mm cannon.

the Apache aeroscout mission.

And to give things an international flavor, WAATS will continue to support the training of Republic of Singapore Air Force AH-64D pilots under the Peace Vanguard program. The Singapore pilots are going through a modified version of the D-model Apache training offered to Army pilots by the active-duty 21st Cavalry Regt. at Fort Hood, Texas.

WAATS will continue to be equally as busy in terms of training enlisted soldiers, Vosburg said. The facility already offers the aviation portion of the basic and advanced noncommissioned officers courses for the MOS 67 career field, as well as the MOS 67R Apache repairer course.

"In 2003 we'll actually conduct more AH-64 transition courses for enlisted repairers than Fort Eustis will," he said. "And by 2005 we'll be

doing all of the Army's A-model mechanic transition courses."

One of WAATS' most significant contributions to Army aviation training has been its development of CD-ROM-based training courses in several key fields, Vosburg said.

"The traditional Guard soldier can usually only get away from his unit for two weeks at a time to attend a particular Army school," he said. "And all the time he may spend away from the unit over the course of months or years to complete the school doesn't help maintain the unit readiness that the National Guard focuses on.

"So here at WAATS we've been developing interactive media instruction, or IMI, for delivery on CD-ROM," Vosburg said. "Soldiers can study the course materials on their own, which means they are better prepared for the school and take less time to complete a given course. The Aviation Operations Course is scheduled for IMI validation this year, and we're looking at other courses for possible IMI conversion."

A Busy Place

WAATS' involvement in several

key programs means that its members are keeping busy.

"Our OPTEMPO is higher than that of a traditional Guard unit," said SSG Mark Head, the Spt. Bn.'s air-traffic control facility chief for WAATS' Picacho Stage Field.

One of the best indicators of that high OPTEMPO, he said, is the daily number of aircraft movements logged at Silver Bell and Picacho, which is used by pilots practicing emergency-procedures training and other maneuvers that would not be appropriate at the main heliport.

"On an average day, the three air-traffic controllers in our Support Bn. might handle 300 to 500 aircraft movements," Head said.

"Yes, we're certainly keeping busy," Rodriguez said, "in the classrooms, on the ramp and in the air. And the OPTEMPO will only increase as we expand the training we do here.

"But here at WAATS we have the talent — both in terms of officers and enlisted soldiers — to make this program succeed," she said. "And we are absolutely dedicated to providing the best possible training for the personnel and units that come here." □



A Time to Honor . . .

IN 1868 GEN John A. Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, proclaimed May 30 as Memorial Day.

Decoration Day, as it was originally known, was designated as a day to remember those who died during the Civil War.

The South, until World War I, refused to acknowledge May 30 and honored the Confederate dead on separate days throughout the year. Since then, millions of people have taken time each Memorial Day to honor and remember those who have served their country throughout history.

The staff of **Soldiers** would like to join Americans around the world in remembering all those who have fought and died in the service of their country.



Revolutionary War

1775-1783

Total who served:
From 184,000 to 250,000
Total deaths: 4,435



Mexican War

1846-1848

Total who served: 78,718
Total deaths: 13,283



Spanish-American War

1898

Total who served: 306,760
Total deaths: 2,446



War of 1812

1812-1815

Total who served: 286,730
Total deaths: 2,260



To
thos
interv
throu

Civil War

1861-1865

Total Union forces: 2,100,000
Total Union deaths: 625,000
Estimated Confederate deaths: 640,000
Estimated total deaths: 1,265,000

A

Memory of Those Who Served



World War I 1917-1918

Total who served: 4,734,991
Total deaths (including those killed during Russian Revolution from August 1919 through April 1920): 11,516.



Korean War 1950-1953

Total who served: 5,720,000
Total deaths: 36,568
(though final casualty records are still being compiled)

Vietnam War

1964-1973
Total who served: 8,744,000
Total deaths: 58,203
(though final casualty records are still being compiled)



World War II 1941-1946

Total who served: 16,112,566
Total deaths: 405,399



Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm

1990-1991
Total who served:
From 467,939 to 665,476
Total deaths: 382

As of press time, the Department of Defense had not released final official casualty figures for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

War

865
ces: 2,213,363
aths: 364,511
e forces:
to 1,500,000
ated Confederate
deaths:
821 to 164,820

Military members have served proudly throughout the world in operations other than the major conflicts listed here. Approximately 362 service members have died in operations around the world. These include the Iranian hostage rescue mission, Lebanon peacekeeping, Operation Urgent Fury in Grenada, Operation Just Cause in Panama, Operation Restore Hope in Somalia and Operation Uphold Democracy in Haiti.

Source: U.S. Army Center of Military History

Time to Remember

Youth Challenge

Story by Beth Reece



Beth Reece

THEY'RE often labeled "losers" — high-school dropouts drifting toward drugs, crime and unemployment. Some are headed for welfare, some for prison.

But put them through 22 weeks of "tough love" at a National Guard Challenge Academy and the experience can change their lives.

"I've done things I never thought I was capable of, like rappel and be part of a team. My family didn't think I'd make it, but Challenge has changed my life," said 16-year-old Amy Allbright three weeks into Florida's Youth Challenge Academy at Camp Blanding, Fla.

Challenge is a quasi-military program that sets high school dropouts on a positive path. Candidates must earn the right to be called "cadet" by adjusting to swift lifestyle changes in a 22-week residential phase that mirrors military basic training. A yearlong mentoring phase follows the residential phase.

"Many of these kids come to us with absolutely no structure in their lives. They've had adults repeatedly fail them, and have never had any kind of success. But we provide them with a structure that helps them to flourish," said Joe Padilla, deputy chief of the Office of Athletics and Youth Development in the National Guard Bureau.

A Solid Structure

The Challenge program is built on eight core components: life-coping skills; academic excellence; job skills; community service; responsible citizenship; health and hygiene;

(Left) Youth Challenge cadre and teachers lead cadets through changes that emphasize self-discipline, self-esteem and education.

(Right) Stephanie Fleming overcomes her fear of heights on the rappel tower at Florida's academy.

Elaine Weeks



The
experience
changes
lives.





Elaine Weeks (both)

Daniel Johnson (above) and Shane Suber, Kenneth Siess and Daryl Brooks (left) test their physical strength on the confidence course.

leadership/followership; and physical fitness.

“These are behaviors and attitudes that we can change or improve in a short time with the hope that cadets will lead more productive lives when they leave,” Padilla said.

Challenge removes all distractions from cadets’ lives — they have no access to television, video games, late nights out, drugs, sex, alcohol or even family members.

“By removing these negative distractions, a child can for the first time focus on himself,” said Julia A. Szczes, deputy director of the Florida academy.

“There’s a lot going on back home

that distracts kids, like crime and drugs. I know a lot of people where I’m from aren’t going anywhere. They could use this program,” said Matthew Martinez, who graduates from the Florida academy next month.

Not every cadet who enters Challenge responds to academics. So, rather than setting cadets up for failure, administrators allow participants to opt for a vocational track. The hope, Padilla said, is that cadets will acquire the skills to become productive citizens.

“We help cadets figure out what they want to do when they leave, whether it’s entering college or learning a trade,” Padilla said. “We

work with them based on their capabilities, not a cookie-cutter notion of what they ‘should’ be doing with their lives.”

An average of 71 percent of those who do test for a GED actually earn one, he added.

Cadre members and teachers help the cadets change destructive behaviors by sharpening their life-coping skills. Classes focus on healthy role models and relationships, anger management, team building, morals and an awareness of gender stereotyping. A \$15-a-week stipend helps them learn money and checkbook management. And since some cadets have children, they explore parenting and responsibility.

Skills that are often taken for granted — like job interviewing and physical fitness — are also built into the curriculum. And each cadet gets a turn at leadership during such activities as drill and ceremony.

Cadre member and retired SFC Randy Walker said he believes most cadets come to the academy lacking willpower. “Discipline is something we give them here that they’re not getting at regular high schools,” he said.

But Richard Wolf, director of the Florida academy, doesn’t place blame. “It doesn’t mean public schools don’t



work. It means public schools don't work for these particular kids. These kids need something else."

Alexandra Coella needed a push. Now considering a nursing career in the military, Coella had little hope for herself and the future she could provide for her baby daughter before Challenge.

"I was down; nothing could bring me up. But once I got here and the cadre started yelling at me to move, I realized how badly I needed this change in my life," she said. "Now I feel really good about myself and the future." Coella graduates from the Florida academy next month.

Someone to Look Up To

Cadets are high on motivation by the end of the residential phase, Wolf said. But the people and situations that led them astray before Challenge aren't likely to have vanished. To help them avoid old temptations, cadets are matched with trained mentors who provide inspiration and advice for at least one year after graduation.

"Mentors become a meaningful and constant presence in cadets' lives," said Szczes. "We prepare mentors to see a completely different child than the one who first came to us. In the end, cadets have very different outlooks about life, and

Rebecca Lundy, Amy Allbright, Thametria McKay and Alexandra Coella share their progress with families through daily letters.

May 2003



Beth Reece

The Challenge curriculum is built upon such military values as loyalty, duty, respect and honor.

Challenge is built on eight components: life-coping skills; academics; job skills; community service; citizenship; health and hygiene; leadership; and physical fitness.



Beth Reece



Elaine Weeks

Elaine Weeks

Dustin Long works with kids at a local elementary school as part of a community-service project during his stay at the Florida academy.

Graduates have gone on to become mechanics, computer technicians, welders, dentists, and employees in dozens of other businesses and industries.

for Challenge last year, but academies nationwide yielded only 7,000 slots. Because funding for Challenge is congressionally mandated, parents pay none of the \$14,000 it takes to get each cadet through the program.

Urbanek views the Guard's success with Challenge from both financial and hometown perspectives. "Research shows that every youth who gets in trouble will cost the country \$1.7 million," he said. "But I wonder what we get out of turning these lives around and putting good citizens out on the streets. How much is that worth to us? How many lives do we save from a homicide or a robbery? How many lives do we affect by putting a good tax-paying citizen out there?"

Although about 25 percent of graduates enlist in the military, cadets are introduced to an array of professions and higher education opportunities. Graduates have gone on to become mechanics, computer technicians, welders, dentists, and employees in dozens of other businesses and industries.

"I guess you could say we're in the nation-building business. The nation needs more than soldiers; it needs people who support soldiers," Urbanek said.

When someone calls Challenge a "last chance for at-risk youth," Wolf and Szczes shake their heads 'no.'

"I hope we're not anybody's last chance, but rather, their best chance," Wolf said. "We like to think we're the best opportunity these kids will ever have." □

mentors are crucial in helping graduates overcome setbacks."

Mentors talk with cadets at least once a week after graduation. A staple of conversation is the graduate's post-residential action plan — a road map of achievements, dreams and steps the graduate must take to reach the goals he or she set with the help of counselors and cadre.

If graduates lag behind, mentors may ask the program staff to call them back to the academy for a little "refocusing," Padilla said.

The post-residential phase gives graduates what Szczes said they want most: one-on-one time with an adult.

"The mentor is not a parent, a parole officer, a bank or a Mr. Fixit,"

Szczes said. "A mentor is a coach, friend and listener. So they play a completely different role than any other adult in the child's life. That's huge for these kids — they love it."

The Guard's Role

Challenge doesn't lack potential participants. More than half a million 16- to 18-year-olds drop out of high school each year, according to COL Matthew Urbanek, chief of the Office of Athletics and Youth Development.

"This is as much a homeland security problem as anything else we face," he said. "Part of the nation's strength is in its young people."

More than 19,000 children applied



Battling the Blizzards



**Story and Photo by
MSG Bob Haskell**

“NIGERIA was never like this,” said SFC Abayomi Emiabata, a District of Columbia Army National Guard soldier who grew up in that country.

He spent the Presidents Day holiday weekend in February helping people dig out from a blizzard that prevented government offices and businesses from opening for at least a day, and kept many people on the East Coast indoors for several days.

Nearly 800 members of the National Guard — the equivalent of a reinforced battalion — responded to what USA Today called “the biggest storm much of the country has seen in a decade,” by helping local authorities in eight states.

Some 350 Guard soldiers were on state active duty in Maryland alone, National Guard officials said.

Delaware peaked at 134 Guard soldiers, while New Jersey pressed 84 into state active duty and Kentucky called up more than 100 to help clear storm-strewn debris and power up generators.

Troops in New Jersey, New York and Virginia also supported the effort. The total included nine members of the Air National Guard on duty in

Nearly 800 members of the National Guard — the equivalent of a reinforced battalion — responded to what USA Today called “the biggest storm much of the country has seen in a decade.”

Delaware, Kentucky and West Virginia.

Many of the Guard troops rolled out in Humvees to transport police officers over streets and roads clogged with drifting snow and buried cars, and to transport emergency personnel to work.

Emiabata and SSG Mark Steedley, full-time members of the D.C. Guard’s counterdrug team, were among 40 D.C. Guard soldiers who participated. The two were assigned to the Metropolitan Police Department’s Third District, which covers an area encompassing some 30 city blocks.

“We did the same thing during the storm in January 1996,” said

Throughout the eastern states, National Guard personnel and vehicles — such as this Humvee belonging to the Washington, D.C., Guard — helped local governments and communities in the aftermath of the Presidents’ Weekend blizzard.

Emiabata, as he and Steedley patrolled the district with Metropolitan Police officer Sylvester Jackson.

Earlier in the day, they’d pulled a police cruiser out of deep snow with a Humvee. That was after they pulled out the vehicle that was initially dispatched to rescue the cruiser.

The two Guard soldiers had also driven the police department’s supervisor across town the previous evening to appear at a press conference at DuPont Circle.

“I like working with the MPD,” said Emiabata, who has helped foster that relationship between the D.C. police force and the National Guard over the past 14 years. “The only difference is our uniforms. Otherwise, they make sure we have the same things and that we are extended the same courtesies.”

That feeling of respect seems to be mutual.

“These are sharp personnel,” said Jackson, who was working with National Guard troops for the first time. “I can work with these guys anytime.” □

MSG Bob Haskell works for the National Guard Bureau’s Public Affairs Office in Arlington, Va.

SPC Andrew Kosterman



Wilbers: Father and daughter in the Kuwaiti desert.

TYPICALLY, when family members meet following separations, hugs and tears are commonplace.

So it was when PFC Elizabeth Wilber – a supply specialist with Headquarters and HQs. Company, 82nd Airborne Division Support Command, from Fort Bragg, N.C. – was reunited in the Kuwaiti desert with her father, Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. John Wilber.

The two, both from North Carolina, said the encounter was something special. “I knew she was leaving a week ahead of me,” said the elder Wilber, an engineer with HQs. Co., 2nd Forward Supply and Support Group. “And I knew she was either at Camp Doha, Kuwait, or at Champion Main, Kuwait. So I asked around and found her.”

Elizabeth Wilber said seeing her dad was a real morale booster. “I feel safer, too, having seen him. Missing my family is the hardest part of being here.”

“I know she’s in good hands; she’s with the 82nd Abn. Div.,” said Wilber, who had only enough time with his daughter for a brief exchange of words before he moved to a forward-operating base in the desert.

When they parted, father and daughter exchanged a resounding “hooah.” Each said they were confident they’d see the other again, safe and sound. — *SPC Andrew Kosterman, 49th Public Affairs Detachment*

“I feel safer, too, having seen him. Missing my family is the hardest part of being here.”

IN the war against terrorism, explosive-ordnance disposal specialists have increasingly been called upon to support safety-and-security missions. Their most visible efforts have been in support of operations in Afghanistan.

Recently, the FBI honored seven EOD specialists, three of them posthumously.

They are: **1LT Kevin Wynes** from the 79th Ordnance Battalion, and **SFC Antony Hammerquist, SSGs Grant Adkins, Justin Galewski, Brian Craig and Jeffrey Pugmire,** and **SGT Jamie Maugans,** all of the 710th Ord. Co.

All received letters of commendation presented by Special Agent in Charge Theodore Jackson, in a ceremony conducted at the FBI’s Atlanta Division.

In the letter, FBI Director Robert S. Mueller III wrote that the soldiers “provided invaluable assistance to the FBI during the investigation of the attempted bombing of American Airlines Flight 63.

“They provided material which was key to identifying [the components used in the explosive material], and we are indeed indebted to each of them for their exceptional support and cooperation,” Mueller wrote.

Richard Reid, the so-called “Shoe Bomber” who was convicted of the attempted December 2001 bombing of the American Airlines flight that originated in France, was recently sentenced to life in prison, without the possibility of parole.

In November 2001 the California-based 710th, a subordinate unit of the 52nd Ord. Group at Fort Gillem, Ga., deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The 17-man unit spent the following seven months performing its mission in Afghanistan.

On Dec. 22, several hours into the Paris-to-Miami American Airlines flight, Reid attempted to ignite a small amount of explosives in the hollowed-out heel of his shoe.

An alert flight attendant who observed Reid’s unusual behavior thwarted his plan. Members of the crew and a group of determined passengers subdued Reid. The plane was diverted to Boston, where he was taken

into custody, and the FBI began its investigation.

Meanwhile, near Kandahar, Afghanistan, members of the 710th were performing their daily mission: disposing of dangerous explosives left behind by the Taliban.

Then came “the call.” The FBI needed the military’s EOD units to keep an eye out for a particular type of explosive, to identify the components used in Reid’s bomb.

“We had just happened to find a huge pile of the same explosive a day before,” said Hammerquist, operations NCO for the 710th. “So we went back out to the site and recovered it.”

Unit members packaged up the material and coordinated its safe shipment to the FBI Laboratory in Washington, D.C.

Galewski, Craig and Maugans were later killed in Kandahar, on April 15, 2002, during explosive-clearing operations. Pugmire was injured in the blast, but survived.

By the end of their tour the EOD soldiers had located and destroyed more than 200 tons of ammunition and ordnance. — *E.C. Starnes, U.S. Army Ordnance Corps, and MAJ Anne Edgecomb, U.S. Army Forces Command PAO*



Sawyer: Introducing soldiers of the 3rd ID in Kuwait.

CBS’s “The Early Show” and ABC’s “Good Morning America” broadcasted live from Camps New York and New Jersey in Kuwait in February to show Americans how **3rd Infantry Division** soldiers fared during the continued buildup for war with Iraq.

“The soldiers have been training hard in harsh conditions,” said MG Buford C. Blount III, 3rd Inf. Div. commander. “This gives them the opportunity to let loose a little bit and say ‘hi’ to their loved ones back home.”

Soldiers at both camps waved handwritten signs in the air, hoping that loved ones back home would see them on TV. Several soldiers were given a few minutes in front of the camera to send messages to loved ones.

SSG Theodore Church of D Troop, 10th Cavalry Regt., spoke to his wife and daughters in Columbus, Ga., during the broadcast.

“I just appreciate that out of all these soldiers I was given the chance to talk to my family,” Church said.

“This has been absolutely wonderful,” Sawyer said. “I think people in the States should see what it’s really like to spend five or six months out here — to work every day, with no real time off and nowhere else to go when you do get a little time to yourself.”

By early evening, the crowds of soldiers had dispersed, equipment had been packed and all that was left was a clean-up detail.

Smith said that the morning shows offered a great representation of the 3rd Inf. Div. The division’s soldiers came across as having great confidence in themselves and their equipment, and with the collective mindset that they can do whatever is asked of them.

— *SGT Craig Zentkovich, Coalition Forces Land Component Command PAO*

“This gives them the opportunity to let loose a little bit and say ‘hi’ to their loved ones back home.”



EOD soldiers: Recognition from the FBI.



SGT Monica R. Garreau

Fort Polk, La.

Dogs Aid Soldiers at JRTC

THE 13th Military Police Company's Military Working Dog section is responsible for detecting narcotics and explosives.

During a recent deployment to Fort Polk's Joint Readiness Training Center, the Hawaii-based dogs proved they're not just useful during peacetime, but they're also an important battlefield asset.

"Scout dogs detect enemy movement 300 to 500 meters away, through sight, sound or detected movement," said SGT Joseph Wallenfang, a 13th MP Co. canine narcotics handler. "They're a great asset to the command."

Although the dogs proved capable of acting as scouts, their main mission at JRTC was to sniff out explosives on vehicles. They also "inspected" civilians who were seeking entrance to the area of operations and helped deter would-be intruders.

"This was excellent training," said LTC Steve Woods, commander of the 17th Combat Support Battalion. "It gave us a new capability."

"Rather than having to search the role-players, we were able to use the dogs," Woods said. "The dogs allowed us to free up some soldiers for other support missions, though caring for the dogs doesn't come without challenges."

"You're not only looking after your own health and hygiene, you have to look after the dog's," said Wallenfang. — SGT Monica R. Garreau, 17th Public Affairs Detachment

SSG Bryant McMillan from the 25th Infantry Division's 13th Military Police Company commands his military working dog to inspect a vehicle during a training exercise at the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, La.

Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

Guard Secures Gitmo

VIRGINIA Army National Guard soldiers from the 29th Infantry Division's 2nd Battalion, 116th Inf. Regiment, are a bit leaner and tanner after many hours of long patrols in the mountains near Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

For the past several months, the soldiers have provided security for detainees and U.S. forces, and have quickly adapted to the challenging island environment.

One would think being deployed to a Caribbean island 90 miles south of Key West, Fla., would be great

duty. But the terrain around Guantanamo Bay is covered with rugged, cactus-covered, shale-sided mountains.

CSM Joe Puskar said patrolling is just one of the many daily missions his soldier perform while in Cuba. Other duties include traffic control, manning observation points and providing security in critical areas.

For some of the Virginia soldiers, duty in "Gitmo" is a second or third deployment in less than two years, said LTC Tom Wilkinson, commander of the 2nd Bn., 116th Inf. Regt.

"I'm extremely proud of these soldiers," said Wilkinson. "They're doing everything asked of them, and more." — MAJ Ed Larkin, 29th ID Public Affairs Office

MAJ Ed Larkin



SPCs Michael Gwaltney and Charles Bird, both members of the Virginia Army National Guard and the 29th Infantry Division's 2nd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, ensure everything is secure around the detainee camp in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.



SFC Tom Roberts

New Jersey Army National Guard soldiers from the 150th Aviation Battalion unload a UH-60 Black Hawk in Panama as part of Exercise New Horizons '03.

Chiriqui, Panama

New Horizons in Panama

NATIONAL Guard soldiers from across America traveled to Panama to participate in New Horizons '03, a joint-combined exercise.

The soldiers, part of the exercise's Joint Task Force Chiriqui, Spearheaded by the Ohio National Guard, constructed schools and clinics and provided medical assistance for the rural villagers living along Panama's border with Costa Rica.

"The soldiers worked with their Panamanian civilian counterparts," said CPT Dave Lambert, an Ohio Guard logistics officer. "This resulted in a cultural and technical exchange that can't be duplicated in the States."

Lambert's main mission was ensuring that all the necessary equipment, material and supplies to support more than 500 soldiers for the four-month project arrived at the right places at the right times.

He said the soldiers began inspecting and cleaning all of the engineer and medical equipment — as well as the vehicles and aircraft — months before the deployment.

"We brought more than 250 items, including three New Jersey Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters," said Lambert.

Lambert said the benefits of the educational and medical contributions Guard soldiers made to the Panamanian people will last for years. — SFC Tom Roberts, National Guard Bureau PAO

Sharp Shooters

Photos by SSG Eric Foltz

THE Eighth U.S. Army has been in Korea since 1950. Both the 2nd Infantry Division and the 19th Support Command fall under the major command, whose mission is to deter North Korean aggression. SSG Eric Foltz, who spent a year with the command's Public Affairs Office and is currently

assigned to Fort Bragg's 49th Public Affairs Detachment, photographed many of the activities soldiers assigned to Korea experience.



A soldier assigned to the United Nations Command Joint Security Battalion keeps watch at the Joint Security Area in the Demilitarized Zone.



Morale, welfare and recreation offices throughout the command organize and sponsor many events, including an annual Army/Navy football game, for service members in Korea.



Many of the units in Korea have adopted orphanages and organize events for the children on a regular basis.



U.S. soldiers and their families are often invited to participate in local events, such as this fashion show of traditional Korean costumes at the annual Korea food show.

SPC Aaron Anderson of the 85th Engineer Detachment checks out some of the local delicacies at Namdaemun Market in downtown Seoul.

Standard photo submissions for Soldiers Sharp Shooters can be mailed to Photo Editor, Soldiers, 9325 Gunston Road, Suite S108, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5581. Photo submissions of digital images should be directed to alberto.betancourt@belvoir.army.mil. All submissions must include an introductory paragraph and captions.





(Above) Blue-tipped 30mm rounds — among the more than 20,000 medium-caliber rounds Radford AAP produces each day — ride a conveyor on their way to be inspected.

(Far right) Plant worker Brian Linkous cuts spaghetti-like strands of propellant into the lengths required for each type of round.

AMMO MAKERS

Story and Photos by
SSG Alberto Betancourt

Virginia's Radford Army Ammunition Plant produces a range of projectiles and propellants for the nation.

NESTLED in one of a series of narrow valleys of the Appalachian Mountains in southwest Virginia, one of the nation's largest ammunition plants steadily provides munitions and propellants to America's military forces.

Since 1941, the Radford Army Ammunition Plant has helped fulfill the nation's munitions requirements. Part of the U.S. Army Materiel Command and operated by the civilian contractor Alliant Ammunition and Powder Company LLC, the plant sprawls over 6,900 acres and produces nearly 20,000 medium-caliber rounds daily. It also makes more than 4,000 pounds of propellant hourly, giving it the capability of producing some 133 million pounds of propellant per year in more than 50 configurations.

"If you're going to make ammunition, for the most part it all starts at Radford," said LTC Brian Butler, RFAAP's commander. "We make the propellants that go in just about every kind of round used by all of the military services."

Butler said the plant operates 24 hours a





day and employs about 1,500 workers.

"I'm most impressed with our contractors and government employees, who dedicate their lives to ensuring that our warfighters get the best products available," said Butler. "They do an awesome job."

John Cain, who works inside the plant's Medium Caliber Operation Center, said working at the plant is a family tradition.

"My father worked here for 40 years, and I've been here 13," said Cain. "I believe I'm helping to support my country, because everything we make will help our men and women in uniform."

Cain's attitude echoes throughout the plant, said William Nestor, who's been a quality-assurance specialist for more than 25 years and has been working at the plant for two years.

"The employees know I monitor their work to ensure they're doing everything correctly," said Nestor. "But they all know the ultimate customer isn't me, it's the soldier in the field. When that soldier pulls the trigger, he or she doesn't have to wonder if the round will work."

Butler said for the past 60 years the plant has been providing America's military with the propellants needed to fight our wars.

"I believe we'll continue doing that for many years to come," he said. □

(Above) Michael Scott performs a final inspection on 25mm cannon rounds destined for the guns of Bradley fighting vehicles.

(Right) Sharon Davis cuts strips from a "carpet roll" — a sheet of cotton-based material that will ultimately become part of the propellants.



(Above) James Tolley runs the splitter operation at the rolled-powder area, where sheets of propellant are cut and later made into the 12-inch "carpet rolls."
(Right) Jerry Wickline watches as primers are inserted into cartridge cases.

"I'm most impressed with our contractors and government employees, who dedicate their lives to ensuring that our warfighters get the best products available."



AMMO MAKERS

Identity Theft

Security
Safety



Safeguard Your Legal Documents

THIS month's Hot Topics insert on identity theft alerts soldiers and family members to the need to protect personal information. Now, considering the growing concern for protecting information contained in legal documents, readers may be asking whether they should file papers such as wills, powers of attorney and DD 214 discharge certificates with a county recorders office.

The question is even more pertinent, considering recent news stories and e-mail messages claiming that people have become victims of identity theft when individuals who had authorized access to their records obtained personal information from documents to use for their own financial gain.

Unfortunately, these stories provided few details about the extent of the activities or the amount of harm done. But now everyone, including the crooks, has learned of a new method to commit fraud and theft.

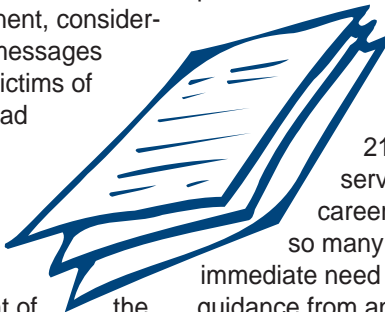
Why File With the County?

When staff members at one legal-assistance office asked clients why they thought it necessary to file legal documents with a county recorders office, without exception the retired soldiers said they had once been instructed by out-processing personnel to file their DD 214s in this way.

Other clients have come to a judge advocate's office seeking help in obtaining 10 or 20 certified true copies of DD 214s they received when they left service or reenlisted earlier in their careers. When asked why they needed so many copies, most said they had no

immediate need but were complying with the guidance from another office.

There is no legal requirement to file wills, DD 214s or powers of attorney with county recorders. In fact, doing so may later cause problems, due to the mobility of the military population. Problems frequently occur, for example, when a person who



Steven Chucala is chief of client services in the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate at Fort Belvoir, Va.

has discarded an original document relies on files in a county recorder's office. The hardship occurs when the document is needed but, after years of deployments and reassignments, no one can recall the state and county where the document may be filed.

Documents that should be filed in county offices include real-estate deeds, mortgages, liens and other papers that put the public on notice of your priority rights and that safeguard your interests.



Protect Your Personal Information

Don't routinely file DD 214s, wills or POAs with a county recorder's office. Do so only after consulting with your attorney and considering such factors as permanency of residence, your ability to expunge documents that have been filed, and alternative means of securing documents (such as placing them in a safety deposit box or using the Army and Air Force Mutual Aid Association repository program).

Also avoid making extra copies of documents, since this opens the possibility of unneeded and forgotten papers falling into the wrong hands. Your legal assistance office can always help you to obtain one or two certified true copies of a document, as you need them.

Once you have these copies, be extremely careful whom you give them to, because they contain an enormous amount of personal information. In the case of the DD 214, the government issues service members two copies of the form, one of which can be used as a valid certificate but is "sanitized" to protect certain information, such as adverse discharge information.

State Laws Are Changing

Rumbles of identity theft have reached state lawmakers. For example, the Virginia Legislature amended the state's statute concerning records filing and inspection. Effective July 2002, The Virginia Code was amended to provide that every circuit court clerk where a person discharged from the armed forces resides will record, free of charge, the original or a properly authenticated copy of the DD 214. Thereafter, the record will be protected by limited access and released to specifically listed individuals. Prior to the amendment, any person could request and review the DD 214 as a public record.

With the growing problem of identity theft, there have been increases in requests from veterans wanting to have their DD 214s expunged from public records. However, actions to remove the records are governed by the statutes of each state and rules of each county court. In Fairfax, Va., for example, the county will not expunge a DD 214 from its records except by court order.

When requesting assistance from a clerk of the court, clearly identify the document you are seeking and whether you're asking for a copy of the document or wish to have it expunged. The clerk can then explain the administrative process, the steps you must take, and what identification, fees and information you must provide to complete your request. □



For additional information on protecting your identity, refer to the Hot Topics insert in this issue. If the insert is missing, the information is available on our Web site at

www.soldiersmagazine.com

Keeping 'Em Flying

HAWAII's 193rd Aviation Intermediate Maintenance Battalion — part of the 45th Corps Support Group — boasts a work force of unusually experienced mechanics. Some of the unit's members have as much as 30 years' experience.

Longevity with the unit is possible because each member is either a full-time Hawaii Army National Guard technician or a Civil Service employee who's also a member of the Guard unit, said 2LT Evelyn Burns, a spokeswoman for the Hawaii Army National Guard.

"It's a setup that allows us to provide the best maintenance services to aviation units on Oahu, primarily to the 214th Aviation Regiment and 68th Medical Company," said aircraft mechanic and altitude shop supervisor SFC Jay Higa. On drill weekends, he doubles as the maintenance operations platoon sergeant.

The 193rd originated in 1966 with 19 full-time people. Today it numbers 38 full-time employees. And on drill weekends, the number reaches about 50, Higa said.

The "intermediate" part of the unit's title is significant because it refers to its position in the maintenance-shop hierarchy.

What an aviation unit can't fix with its own resources comes to the AVIMS. "If we can't perform required maintenance here, the parts from CH-47D Chinooks and UH-60A Black Hawks would have to be shipped to the mainland for

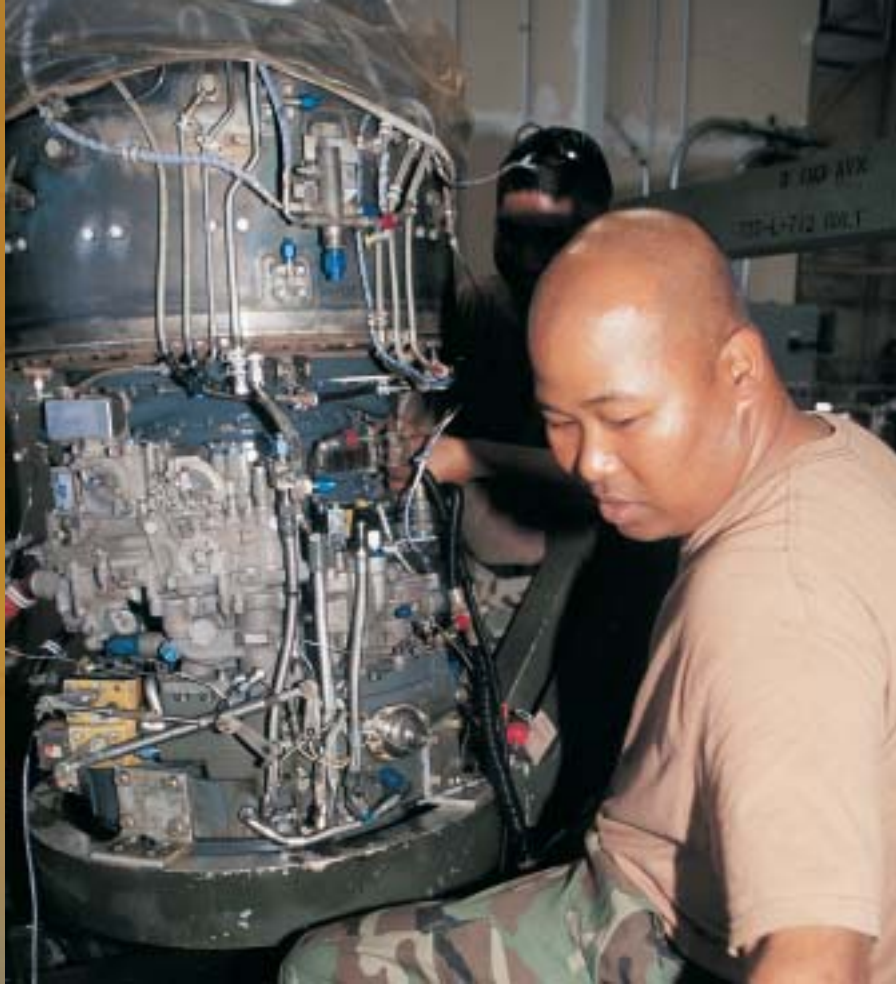


in Hawaii

Story and Photos by Heike Hasenauer



The 193rd's SFC Gregory DeCosta (left), SSG Maurice Aquino (center) and SSG Wendell Costa work on the hydraulic system of a UH-60 Black Hawk.



Full-time AGR technician SPC Robert Saludares replaces an engine compressor on a CH-47 Chinook.

repair,” said production control clerk SSG Elizabeth Vidrick. “That would cost considerably more time and money.”

From August 2001 to August 2002 unit members completed some 1,300 work orders and logged some 44,000 man-hours, Vidrick said.

“The work orders covered everything from regular maintenance — such as inspecting wheel bearings, axles and rotor blades — to rebuilding engines,” said SPC John Oliveros.

The highest number of work orders come into the avionics and radar repair shop, said SFC Ronald Oshiba.

Countermeasures components, transponders, navigation equipment and automatic-flight computers all fall under that shop’s jurisdiction, as do night-vision goggles, said SPC Daryl Nakamura, an avionics and radar repair specialist.

SGT Roger Goodwin, a full-time Guard technician who once worked aboard a University of Hawaii research vessel, joined the unit to “get into something more secure,” he said, “and to be able to go home every night, versus being at sea for months at a time.”

As a propeller and rotor mechanic, he conducts routine scheduled inspections to detect stress cracks, among other things. It’s a science unto itself, he said. To eliminate the possibility of any such cracks in an aircraft frame, he employs ultrasound, X-ray, florescent-penetrant and magnetic-particle-display technologies.

Among the mechanics’ other jobs are tearing down rotor-head systems, replacing seals and bearings, and testing pressure systems, Goodwin said.

“We try to build a lot of compo-

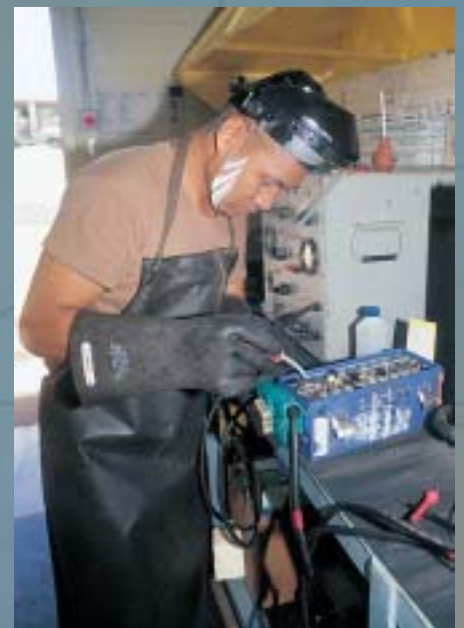
nents ahead of time, so we can be like a gas station,” said SSG Allan Kapuniai. “A unit can bring equipment in and get it back quickly.”

The unit’s maintenance hangar at Wheeler Army Airfield, on Oahu, can accommodate seven aircraft at a time, said Kapuniai.

The aircraft mechanics undergo a year and a half of training at Fort Eustis, Va., to work on aircraft engines, for example. “And we train active-duty soldiers, who may spend four hours per day working on aircraft, compared to our eight, because they have ‘other duties as assigned.’ We concentrate on aviation maintenance,” said the Hawaiian-born Kapuniai.

“As a member of the National Guard, I not only get to live in my home state, I get to deploy to places active-duty soldiers deploy to — such as the Joint Readiness Training Center in Louisiana and to exercises in places like Thailand,” he said.

SFC Gregory DeCosta has been doing this type of work for 38 years,



Aircraft electrician SGT Simeon Rojas performs a regular maintenance check on an aircraft battery.



"Our satisfaction comes from knowing we're checking out every detail to ensure pilots and crews are safe."

he said, 30 years as a full-time member of the National Guard.

Aircraft electrician SGT Simeon Rojas services batteries, first by discharging their voltage to zero, so he won't get shocked, then cleaning and recharging them.

"We do capacity tests, to ensure all the battery's cells function at capacity," Rojas said. It's what powers the forward-looking infrared radar system, the master caution panel and the aircraft's instrument system.

Before any serviced aircraft is returned to its unit, quality-assurance specialists like SGT Roy Nitta perform intensive tests, including an engine-turbine rotor check. Before a new or serviced engine is put into the aircraft, "we give it a 'run cell' test," Nitta said.

The engine runs for 12 hours to

ensure it works properly, he said. Then maintenance test pilot CW3 Glenn Hirata takes to the air to verify its airworthiness.

"The aircraft we've serviced have never been involved in an accident," said quality-assurance inspector CW2 Warnee Bagay, "and they never will."

"Our satisfaction comes from knowing we're checking out every detail to ensure pilots and crews are safe," he said. In doing so, "we play a role in the success of aviation units' missions in Hawaii – that is to help the island's citizens by helping to extinguish seasonal brush fires and provide aeromedical evacuation services to accident victims." □

Avionics and radar-repair specialist SPC Daryl Nakamura tests a pair of night-vision goggles.



Cooperation on any task — large or small — is one of the key's to the 193rd's continuing success.

Around the Services

Compiled by *SSG Alberto Betancourt*
from service reports



Air Force

F-16 Fighting Falcons from the 35th Fighter Wing at Misawa Air Base, Japan, continue their mission after receiving fuel from a KC-135 Stratotanker in the skies near Iraq. The F-16s were flying missions over Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Staff Sgt. Cherrie A. Thurlby, USAF

PA2 Matthew Benson, USCG



Coast Guard

Fireman Dennis Ross, a Coast Guard Reservist, maintains the security perimeter around the United Nations building in New York. The Coast Guard also has patrol boats in the Persian Gulf in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Sgt. Joseph R. Chenelly, USMC



Marines

Marines from the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force don chemical protective suits and masks in response to an alarm at Camp Commando, Kuwait. The marines deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

PH1 James Krogman, USN



☆ U.S. Government Printing Office: 2002-491-540/60013



Navy

A Tomahawk cruise missile launches from the USS Winston S. Churchill, operating in the eastern Mediterranean Sea in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Sea-launched cruise missiles struck targets throughout Iraq during the first hours of the war.



The Corps Engages: Vietnam War, underground tunnels

TO counter the immense technological advantage held by U.S. and allied forces during the Vietnam War, the Viet Cong developed an extensive network of underground tunnels. From these tunnels the enemy could effectively ambush American forces and then vanish. The tunnels became so highly developed that they eventually contained armories, hospitals, mess halls, manufacturing centers and storage facilities. Some of the tunnels were as much as 40 miles long — the Cu Chi tunnel complex alone contained 130 miles of passageways.

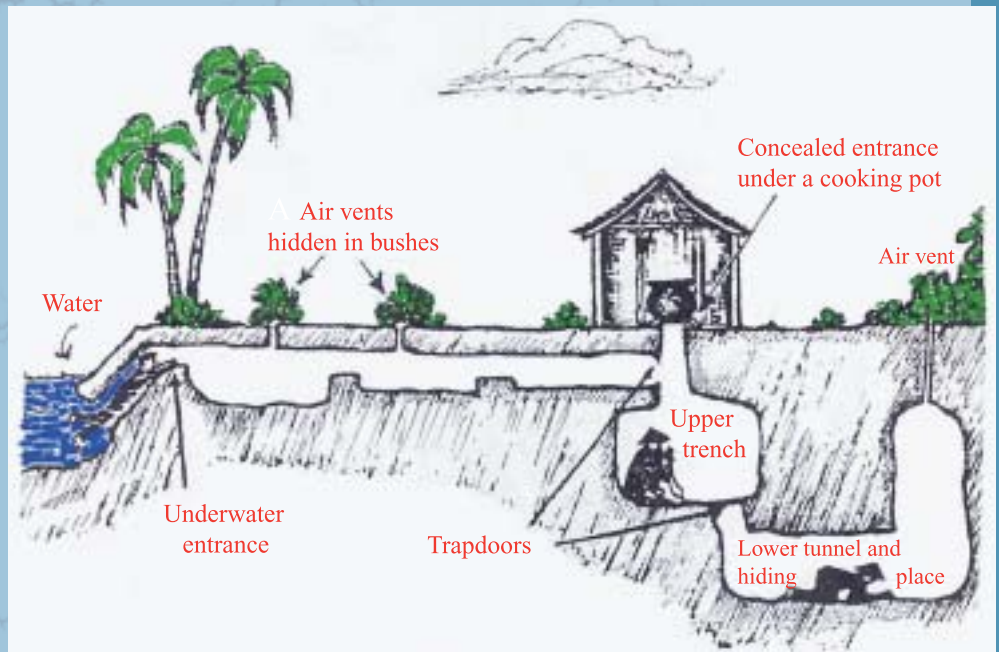
Extensive booby-trapping made it nearly impossible for American troops to extricate enemy fighters from the larger tunnels, which could withstand intense aerial bombardment by B-52 bombers.

While Army engineers faced a daunting task in destroying these systems, they nevertheless developed a number of methods for doing so.

The use of bulldozers and plows only displaced shallow tunnels. Flooding also proved ineffective, because the Viet Cong had wells deep inside the tunnels to prevent them from becoming saturated. Using explosives endangered American soldiers, and acetylene was too volatile. The least desirable method of flushing out the enemy was through the use of “tunnel rats,” volunteers who would enter tunnels and clear them with pistols and demolition charges.

One of the most effective ways the engineers hampered the enemy’s use of the tunnels was by using CS powder, smoke or riot-control agents aerosolized and dispersed by a “Mitey Mite” blower. It was believed that some of the chemical agents would remain on the walls and render them uninhabitable for months.

In the end, enemy forces’ operations from the tunnels were never completely shut down.

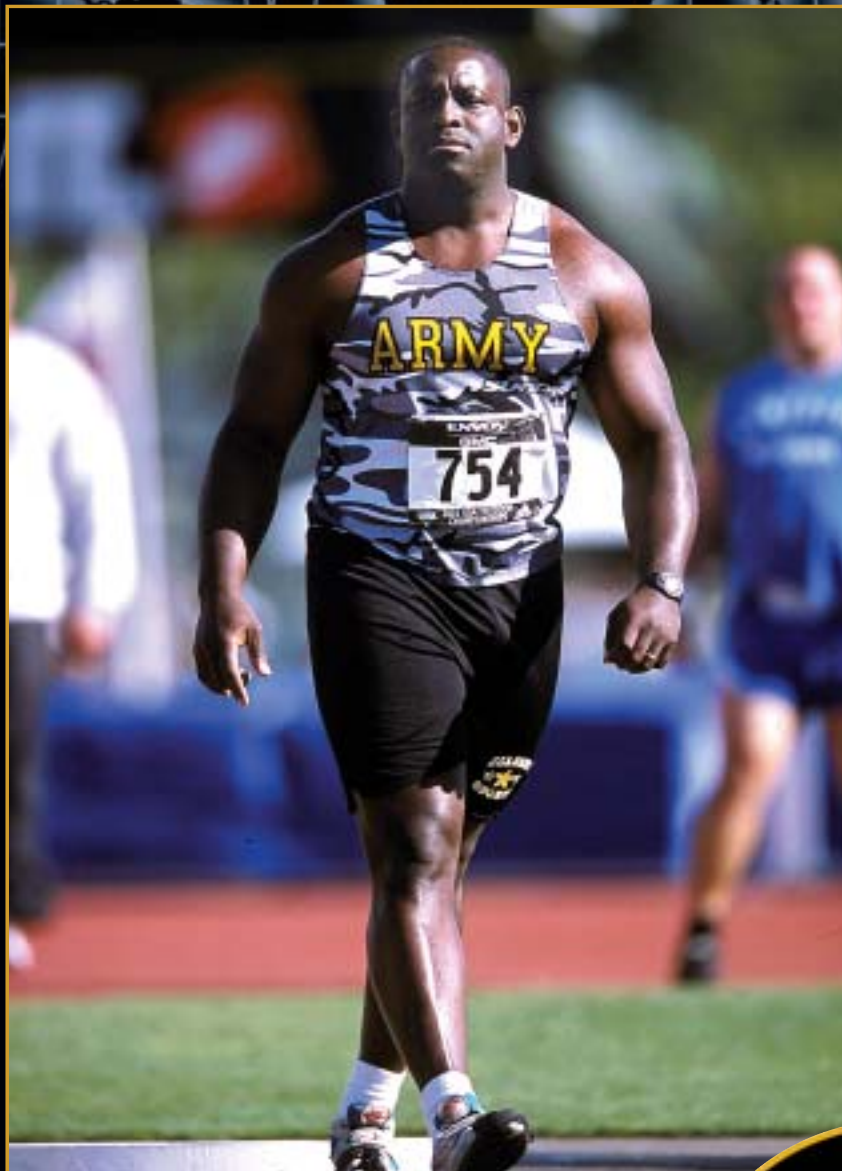


Many of the more sophisticated tunnels had several possible entrances and exits.

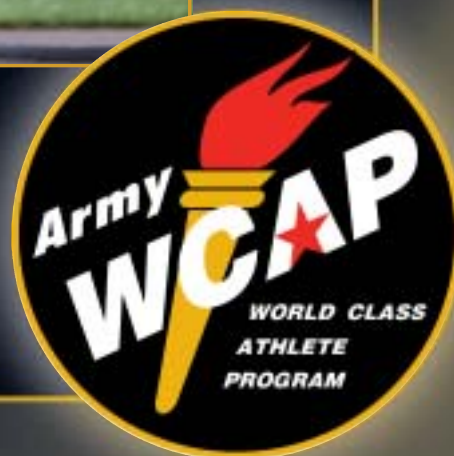


Engineers in Vietnam test a Mitey-Mite blower used to pump smoke or riot-control agents into enemy tunnels.

SSG TONYO SYLVESTER



SSG Tonyo Sylvester enlisted in the Army as a medic in 1990. The former Junior Olympian has been competing in the shot put since high school. Sylvester finished 13th in the 2001 USA Track and Field Olympic Trials. That year he was also a silver medallist at the Pacific Association Championships, and finished fifth at the U.S. Open Track and Field Meet.



SHOT PUT

WCAP is one of 50 morale, welfare and recreation programs the Army provides soldiers and families worldwide through the U.S. Army Community & Family Support Center.